

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield  
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom  
The Honorable Alex Kasser  
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal  
The Honorable John A. Kissel  
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Connecticut General Assembly  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My Name is Dr. Sandra Carson, and I write to provide testimony in support of **Raised Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**. I am a Professor and Section Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale University Medical School, as well as a physician in Gynecology, Obstetrics, and Reproductive Endocrinology at Yale New Haven Hospital. Each year, REI sees around 22,000 patients, many of whom are able to become parents through assisted reproduction.

Through my 30-plus years of professional experience, I have devoted my practice to ensuring that all those who wish to build families are able to do so. I hold 14 patents for devices used in fertility, and have authored more than 140 peer-reviewed publications on the topic. Over the course of my career, I have seen the field of fertility transform: when I first entered medical school, health care providers had no treatments to offer (heterosexual) couples who found out they were infertile. Today, medical advances involving donor gametes and surrogacy have given heterosexual and LGBTQ people alike a variety of fertility options. Indeed, one of my focuses at the Yale Fertility Clinic has been to expand our innovative services for the state's LGBTQ population.

My work has given me the privilege of seeing families created using assisted reproduction. In fact, Connecticut has the second highest rate of births through assisted reproduction in the country. Through my work, I have come to recognize the importance of secure legal parentage—particularly for the non-biological parents who are common in families formed through assisted reproduction, including LGBTQ families. Current Connecticut law does not adequately protect these families. Our state's laws on assisted reproduction explicitly apply only to "husband" and "wife," leaving out LGBTQ and unmarried parents. Indeed, Connecticut is currently the only New England state without protections or paths to parentage for non-biological parents to establish their legal parent-child relationship at birth. Often, non-biological parents are forced to go through a lengthy and arduous process to adopt their own children in order to secure legal parentage. I support the CPA because it will ensure that all of my patients

and their children, regardless of biological relationship, marital status, or sexual orientation, are legally protected.

I also support the CPA because it will provide clear standards to protect all parties involved in the surrogacy process, including the intended parents, the person acting as a surrogate, and the child. I have seen surrogacy procedures gain in popularity in recent years, and it is imperative that we modernize our state's laws to properly regulate this increasingly common form of family creation.

For the above reasons, I ask that the Committee support Bill 6321. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra Carson  
Chief, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Section  
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
Yale University Medical School